

National Park Service Geospatial Data Policies and Standards

NPS Data and Information Policies and Standards

The National Park Service (NPS) will use current data, metadata, software standards, and life cycle management as mandated by federal, DOI, and NPS directives for information and system development and management. **Because 80 - 90% of NPS data is spatial or can be related to a geographic location, Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) data and content standards for metadata and NPS geographic information systems (GIS) guidelines should be implemented consistently to promote enterprise data access and use.** Spatial information and systems enhance e-gov initiatives, make NPS information and services more useful to citizens, NPS operations, support decision making, and enhance reporting to Congress.

[NPS Specifications for Geospatial and Other Data Deliverables of GIS and Resource Mapping, Inventories and Studies](#)

National Datasets Structure

The [National Dataset and Information Table](#) provides the structure of all national datasets which have been posted to the [NPS GIS Clearinghouse](#) (which is now a static repository being replaced by [Natural Resource Information Portal](#)). The table provides a brief description of each theme as well as the attributes being collected. This table does not include fire datasets.

The GIS Council has adopted a procedure for developing GIS data layer standards. This draft document is the [GIS Data Layer Standards Submission and Approval Process](#) and includes a generic data model in Appendix C.

Field Data Collection with Global Positioning Systems Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines

[GPS Field Collection](#) (draft 2004; currently under review). The purpose of this document is to address instrument settings, field operation, and data processing for GPS data collection and to make recommendations for standards in recording of positional data.

Natural Resource Guidelines

[GIS Standards and Recommendations](#) of the NPS Inventory & Monitoring Program.

See [Vegetation Mapping Standards](#) at this USGS site for NPS Vegetation Mapping protocols.

NPS Geology-GIS Data Model for Digital Geologic Maps

In conjunction with the Geologic Resources Inventory of NPS units, the Inventory and Monitoring Program and Geologic Resources Division have developed a standard [GIS data model for digital geologic maps](#). A main focus of the inventory is to acquire and digitize geologic maps for each unit with significant natural resources.

GIS (Geographic Information System) Data Specifications for Resource Mapping, Inventories, and Studies

Resource Management (RM) and Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) projects and activities generate both spatial and tabular data sets. These data sets will be incorporated into park, regional, and national databases and made available to a wide range of users. In order for this to occur effectively, certain standards and product specifications must be followed. This document provides general standards for spatial data collection and submission. Park-, network-, region-, and program-level project managers may require further specifications and must approve any deviation from these standards.

Cultural Resource Guidelines

[OMB Circular A-16](#) (revised in 2002) "...designates the NPS as the primary agency to steward the cultural resource spatial data theme, which includes the responsibility for the establishment of data standards. Within the NPS, the Cultural Resource GIS Facility (CRGIS) has been given the lead in this effort both inside the NPS and throughout the federal community with the FGDC."
(<http://www.nps.gov/history/hdp/standards/crgisbackground.htm>)

Some selected background information from their [NPS Cultural Resource GIS Facility](#)

- CRGIS has participated in multi-agency cultural resource data standard creation efforts since 1999 and created a cultural resource work group with the FGDC to facilitate such efforts.
- CRGIS developed a first draft of the standards reflecting the needs outlined by the NPS data managers in October 2005.
- After many drafts and revisions, including input from other agencies and NPS employees, CRGIS posted the final standards in January 2010.

To view the National Park Service Cultural Resource Spatial Data Standards, visit [NPS Cultural Data Standards](#).